Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

been described since. The *Index Kewensis* cites about ninety specific names, and recognizes fifty-four as good. Students of the genus have long suspected that most of the so-called species are but forms of a few exceedingly variable species, and Mr. Irish has reached the conclusion that there are but two species, *C. annuum* and *C. frutescens*, the one annual or biennial, the other perennial. He has preserved the well-fixed types of cultivated forms as botanical varieties. Twenty-one plates fully illustrate the paper, which is a remarkable piece of patient work in a very perplexing subject.

3. HITCHCOCK, ALBERT S.: "List of cryptogams collected in the Bahamas, Jamaica, and Grand Cayman." These collections were made the winter of 1890–1, and a list of the spermatophytes and pteridophytes was published in the fourth annual report of the Garden. The list of cryptogams contains seventy-three species, some of them new, and all determined by specialists in the several groups.

4. ROSE, J. N.: "*Agave Washingtonensis* and other agaves flowering in the Washington Botanic Garden in 1897." The large collection of agaves in the Botanic Garden at Washington has never been critically studied, and promises to contain several undescribed species, one of which Mr. Rose and J. G. Baker describe and figure in the present paper.

5. THOMPSON, CHARLES HENRY: "The species of Cacti commonly cultivated under the generic name Anhalonium." Mr. Thompson has done good service in supplying full notes and excellent photographs of living plants of these disputed forms. He regards the group as consisting of two genera, *Ariocarpus* Scheidw. (*Anhalonium* Lem.) and *Lophophora* Coulter.

The report closes with a series of "Notes and observations" as follows: "The *Epidendrum venosum* of Florida," by W. Trelease, with full description and two plates; "Miscellaneous observations on Yucca," by W. Trelease, with four plates; "The Missouri dogbanes," by W. Trelease, with two plates; "A coloring matter found in some Borraginaceæ," by J. B. S. Norton; "Notes on some plants chiefly from the southern United States," by J. B. S. Norton, with five plates and three new species; "A new disease of cultivated palms," by W. Trelease; and "*Parmelia molliuscula*," by Henry Willey.— J. M. C.

The flora of Africa.

THE activity, not to say rivalry, displayed by taxonomists of Belgium, England, France, and Germany in the publication of the African flora is remarkable. The book before us[3] is a Belgian contribution, the first part of which (Vol. V), containing monocotyledons and gymnosperms, appeared in 1895, and was noticed briefly in the GAZETTE (**20**:278. 1895). The long delay in the appearance of a second part was due to various reasons, but has had its advantages in permitting the authors to include the results of the recent extraordinary activity in the study of the African flora. As the present volume has been in process of publication since 1895, the authors have wisely indicated the date of publication of the different parts of the volume, extending from October 1895 to April 1898. The work is not descriptive, but is simply a catalogue of described species, with bibliographical citations, synonymy, distribution, and occasional critical notes. The work will be complete in six volumes of about 500 pages each.—J. M. C.

---

[3] DURAND, TH. et SCHINZ, HANS: Conspectus Floræ Africæ. Vol. I, part 2. Dicotyledons (Ranunculaceæ–Frankeniaceæ). 8vo. pp. 268. Berlin: R. Friedländer and Sohn. Paris: Paul Klincksieck. *fr.* 12.50.

A new botanical text.

A RECENT French work,[4] which is a valuable contribution to botanical texts, is that of Professor L. Courchet, of the School of Pharmacy at Montpellier. The author purposes only to write a treatise for the use of students in the professional schools of France, which seem to demand mainly work with spermatophytes. The first part is devoted to the general morphology (in the old sense) of spermatophytes, and a second much larger part to a systematic description of the natural families. The most striking feature is the unusual space given to the dicotyledons, a proportionate space unequaled in any English text we have seen. Thallophytes are given 130 pages of amply illustrated text, to bryophytes are allotted 12, pteridophytes are presented in 44 pages, while spermatophytes occupy 1540 pages, 1356 of which are devoted to the dicotyledons. Such a distribution of space in a general text must make the plant kingdom seem like a huge mushroom to the observing student. The text throughout is accompanied by good illustrations, and the keys and summaries which accompany each family are worked out with great completeness.—J. G. COULTER.

The study of lichens.

THIS group has few special students in America, and certainly receives but little attention from amateurs. As lichens are found almost everywhere, they would speedily attract collectors and students if some suitable book were provided as an introduction. Such a book Dr. Schneider[5] has prepared, stating that it "is especially written and arranged for the use of amateurs in the study of lichens." Just how useful it will prove remains to be seen, but we wish it all the success that its purpose deserves. The author's general

---

[4] COURCHET, L.—Traite de Botanique. 2 vols. 8 vo. pp. viii + 1320. *figs. 514.* Paris: J. B. Bailliere et fils. 1897. *fr.* 12.

[5] SCHNEIDER, ALBERT.—A guide to the study of lichens. Small 8vo. pp. xii + 234, *pl. 11.* Boston: Bradlee Whidden. 1898.